

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A combination, comprising valdecoxib, or a pharmaceutically acceptable
5 salt thereof, and an allosteric inhibitor of MMP-13, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
2. The combination according to Claim 1, wherein the allosteric inhibitor of
MMP-13 comprises a hydrophobic group and first and second hydrogen bond
10 acceptors, wherein:
 - (a) the relative positions of centroids of the above features are defined by the following Cartesian coordinates in Å:
 - (i) first hydrogen bond acceptor, 0.00, 0.00, 0.00;
 - (ii) second hydrogen bond acceptor, 5.08, 2.23, 0.0;
 - 15 (iii) first hydrophobic group, -1.52, -3.06, -0.23; and
 - (b) tolerances in the positions of the hydrophobic group and the hydrogen bond acceptors are ± 1.0 Å and ± 1.5 Å respectively.
3. The combination according to Claim 1, wherein the allosteric inhibitor of
20 MMP-13 comprises first and second hydrophobic groups and first and second hydrogen bond acceptors, wherein:
 - (a) the relative positions of centroids of the above features are defined by the following Cartesian coordinates in Å:
 - (i) first hydrogen bond acceptor, 0.00, 0.00, 0.00;
 - 25 (ii) second hydrogen bond acceptor, 5.08, 2.23, 0.0;
 - (iii) first hydrophobic group, -1.52, -3.06, -0.23;
 - (iv) second hydrophobic group, 9.07, 0.00, 0.00; and
 - (b) tolerances in the positions of the hydrophobic groups and the hydrogen bond acceptors are ± 1.0 Å and ± 1.5 Å respectively.
- 30 4. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a combination of valdecoxib, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and an allosteric inhibitor of MMP-

13, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

5. A method of treating a disease or disorder selected from cartilage damage, inflammation, arthritis, and pain in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a combination of valdecoxib, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and an allosteric inhibitor of MMP-13, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the disease or disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.
7. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the disease or disorder is osteoarthritis.
8. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the disease or disorder is joint inflammation.
9. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the pain is joint pain.